Salisbury University
Nabb Research Center
for Delmarva History and Culture
Chesapeake Bay

# Shoreline

Vol. 11, Issue 7, July 2004

## Genealogical Society Donates to Nabb

On June 11, the Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society generously donated $5,000 to the SU Foundation for the benefit of the Nabb Research Center. In attendance at the gift presentation, pictured below, were (from left) Henry Hanna, chairman of the SU Foundation; Janet Dise, president of the Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society; and Rebecca Miller, director of the Nabb Research Center. This gift will be utilized to purchase a large quantity of books currently found on the Nabb Center's ever-growing wish list.

The new acquisitions will include many works useful to those researching local and family history, from the novice to the seasoned researcher. Highlighting the future purchases is a variety of abstracts of Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester county land records, judicial proceedings, and wills by Leslie and Neil Keddie. Additional acquisitions will include a selection of abstract compilations of 17th and 18th century Maryland and Virginia records published by Colonial Roots and other interesting monographs.

The Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society and the Nabb Research Center collaborate in many ways in order to educate and involve the public in historical pursuits. The Nabb Center is the site for the LDGS's meetings and a number of members from the Society provide volunteer research assistance at the Center. Members of the LDGS panel that approved the acquisitions list include Polly Batchelder, Allan Green, Virginia Green, Barry Miles and Ray Thompson. Many are also Nabb Center members. The Nabb Research Center and the SU Foundation thank the Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society for all they do to support historical research endeavors throughout Delmarva! A special thanks to Virginia Green for searching the online catalog to ensure no duplicates were on the list, drawn up by Ray Thompson, which saved hours of work for the Nabb Center staff.

## Eastern Shore Baseball Exhibit

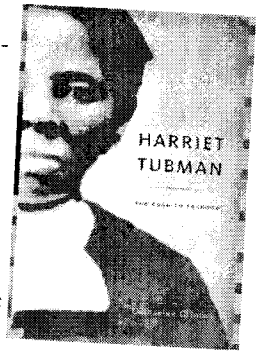
The Nabb Research Center is grateful to Ed Jones, Salisbury University Police officer and adjunct history lecturer, his son Trey Jones, and John C. Taylor III, son of member and volunteer Pat Taylor, for sharing some of their treasured collectibles for a Nabb summer display titled "Eastern Shore Baseball Goes to the Majors." Through the Topps baseball card collection of Ed Jones, many of the Eastern Shore League and Shorebird minor league players are traced to major league success. A series of cards and commemorative, signed baseballs follow Baltimore Orioles history while 20 years of Topps designer cards feature baseball greats.

A portion of the display honors the three Eastern Shore Baseball League players who went on to great major league careers and were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame: Frank "Home Run" Baker, Mickey Cochrane and Jimmy Foxx, as well as Judy Johnson native of Snow Hill, MD, who was inducted from the Negro Leagues.

Baseball is a cultural icon. Mentioning such Eastern Shore League teams as the Parksley Spuds, the Cambridge Canners or the Milford Doves recalls an easier and more leisurely lifestyle. This history has a strong emotional attachment to time and experiences that tugs at fond memories of community and fun. These memories and artifacts of baseball past, featured in the Nabb Research Center display, are treasures that evoke nostalgia and also reconstruct an era of cultural history in Delmarva.

## Mark Your Calendars!

On Wednesday, July 7, at 7 p.m. in the Wicomico Room of Salisbury University's Guerrieri University Center, author Catherine Clinton will meet with the public, students and scholars alike to discuss her new book *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom.* Sponsored by the Teaching American History program, the discussion will center around the highly acclaimed biography of this central figure in the struggle against slavery with special emphasis on Tubman's exploits on the Eastern Shore. Everyone is welcome to this free event!



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## Teaching American History Program

The summer institute segment of the Teaching American History Program (TAHP), coordinated by Dr. Richard Wilson, will take place at Salisbury University from Tuesday, July 6 through Thursday, July 15. Forty Wicomico County teachers, education interns, and media specialists will visit Devilbiss Hall and the Nabb Research Center to experience history in ways they may have never thought possible. The purpose of the program, entitled "Community as Laboratory: Maryland's Eastern Shore and the History of Freedom and Democracy in America," is to give public school teachers the tools with which to teach American history in the context of local history.

One of the more unique aspects of the program is the oral histories that will be conducted by the participants. People from all walks of life from the local community will be interviewed on a variety of subjects from military service to civil rights topics. Participants will also hone their skills in doing primary historical research at the Nabb Center and compose lesson plans utilizing their research.

Those involved in the institute include Salisbury University professors Drs. Joel Jenne, Dean Kotlowski, Michael Lewis, Creston Long, Maarten Pereboom, Melanie Perreault, Clara Small, Ray Thompson, and Jeanne Whitney, along with the Nabb Center's administrative assistant, Donna Messick, and archivist, Becca Brooks. Nabb Research Center staff members Becky Miller, Aaron Horner, and Erin McKenzie will assist the participants in the reading room. Additionally, Nabb Center intern Andy Titus will film institute activities.

## Pemberton Historical Camp

The Pemberton Hall Foundation, the Wicomico County Board of Education and the Maryland State Board of Education have aligned for the second year to provide 17 talented and gifted fifth, sixth and seventh graders with a fun and educational Historical Camp at Pemberton Hall. Wearing period costumes, students will spend one week during July immersed in 19th century culture by performing chores, crafts and leisure activities in which children of the 1800s would have participated.

On the mornings of Tuesday, July 20, and Thursday, July 22, the children will visit the Nabb Research Center in order to learn how fun and exciting primary research can be with Nabb volunteer Pat Taylor. Children will be introduced to original manuscripts such as deeds, wills, inventories and tax lists and taught how to locate the documents in the repository. Each child will research a particular character, from Pemberton Hall builder Isaac Handy to Rose, a female slave of Isaac and Henry Handy. The students' finished product of this segment of their camp experience will be a two-minute oral presentation in first-person point of view based on their primary document research. Thelma Merrill, Pemberton education coordinator, Bill Wilson, history coordinator, and Pat Taylor, research coordinator, head up the camp. Nabb Center summer intern Andy Titus will be filming the camp.